

# Big Sky Libraries

Number 54 November/December, 1997

Montana State Library [MSL]

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## Hot Springs Opens New Library

by Michael Schulz, MSL Commissioner

The grand opening of the new Preston Hot Springs Town-Country Library was held Wednesday, November 5, 1997. Citizens of the area were welcomed to the new library building with a festive celebration of food, decorations, songs, stories, and fun. Anita McCoy, chair of the library board, and her fellow members along with Jean Patton, library director, and her clerk, Pam Starkey, reflected on the hard work of raising the funds to match the LSCA grant that Hot Springs was awarded.

Bake sales, yard sales, and donations made up the bulk of the fund raising efforts. Zola Welch, a long time board member commented, that the money was raised "one cinnamon roll at a time." She recently retired and was honored at the opening with a gift celebrating her 19 years of service on the library board. All in all, 140 groups contributed to the money gathering. The single largest donation of \$27,000 was given by the Preston family, area ranchers, and the library board renamed the library in their honor. D.A. Davidson corporation also presented Anita McCoy with a gift during the festivities.

A spirit of commitment and enthusiasm infused the opening celebration. The new Preston Hot Springs Town-Country Library stands as a testimonial to the dedication and perseverance of Hot Springs and the surrounding area.

### New Acquisitions at MSL

**The Bibliographic Record and Information Technology,**  
by Ronald Hagler

**The ABCs of Collaborative Change,** by Kerry David Carson, Paula Phillips Carson, and Joyce Schouest Phillips

**Statistical Report 1997,** produced by the Public Library Data Service

**Transforming Libraries Issues and Innovations in...**

1. Electronic Reserves

2. Geographic Information Systems

3. Electronic Scholarly Publication

All three by George J. Soete

### Calendar

November 27	Thanksgiving Day - State Holiday
December 3	Montana State Library Commission Meeting - Helena
December 5	Networking Task Force Meeting
December 25	Christmas Day - State Holiday
January 7	Library Law Revision Task Force - Helena
January 9-15	ALA Midwinter - New Orleans
March 10-14	Public Library Association National Conference - Kansas City, MO
April 19-25	National Library Week and Reading is Fun Week
April 29 - May 2	MLA Conference - Missoula
May 4	Center for the Book Idea Exchange Day - Washington, D.C.
May 5	ALA Legislative Day, Washington, D.C.
May 6-9	MPLA/Utah Library Association joint conference, Salt Lake City,

## A Word From Our State Librarian

Please join me in welcoming new State Library Staff. We are fortunate to have recruited quality people to serve you.

John Finn and Magi Malone are our two new technology consultants based in Great Falls and Billings. Magi has been on-the-job for three weeks now. Her travel schedule for this week includes Broadus, Colstrip, Forsyth, Miles City, Ekalaka, Baker, Wibaux, Sidney, Glendive, Jordan, Circle and Terry. I am very pleased that Magi is taking advantage of the good fall weather to introduce herself to the librarians that she will serve. I also admire her stamina!

John Finn, who will be based in the Great Falls Public Library, started November 10. John will be at the State Library for a week for introductions and to gather supplies. Then he will be off to Great Falls and the Northeastern part of Montana. John is not only new to the State Library but to Montana. Please join us in making him feel welcome.

We made an offer to an out-of-state librarian for the position of the Technology Consultant in Helena. I hope to share good news with you in the next issue of this newsletter and via Wired-Mt.

The three technology consultants will work as a team to serve Montana's public libraries. We have assigned two Federation areas to each consultant. We also plan to assign at least one statewide project to each consultant. The three will meet at least

quarterly to review and plan their work.

Darlene Staffeldt, director of Statewide Library Resources, will supervise all three.

I would also like to welcome Sue Jackson to the State Library staff. Sue is our new Federal Grants Coordinator and I'm impressed by the way that she has jumped into her new job. I have received comments from librarians working with LSCA grants that Sue is an asset to the State Library.

Kris Larson, who is featured elsewhere in this newsletter, is our new NRIS Metadata coordinator. Kris has done a great job in explaining the possibilities of GIS to Montana's school libraries. I expect she will enthusiastically carry out her outreach mission in her new job.

Regarding my schedule...I have attended 17 all-day meetings in the last 5 ½ weeks. All of them have been important, some even critical for this agency. However, I look forward to having more time in the office during the next three months to assimilate the content of these meetings, to conduct necessary research, and maybe even finish some projects.



### Karen's Travel Schedule:

#### December:

3rd - Commission meeting, Helena

5th - Networking Task Force Meeting, Helena

10th - Information Technology Advisory Council, Helena

22nd - 26th - Vacation

#### January:

7th - Law Revision Task Force



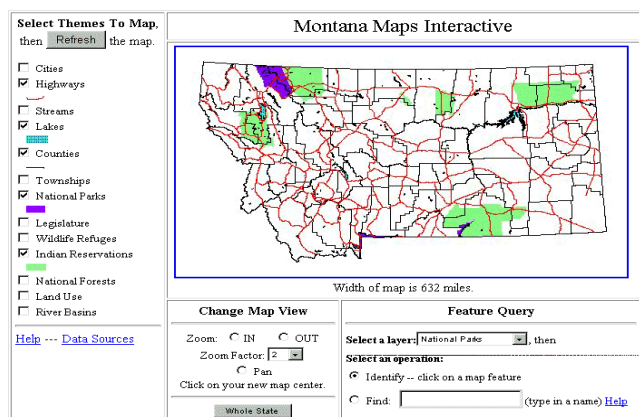
Here's a sample of a few of the great costumes MSL staff wore for Halloween. Left to right: Melony Bruhn of the Heritage Program as the Bandit, Kris Larson of NRIS as the Upside-Down Man and Kathy Madison, of Statewide

### NOTICE: Workshop

"The Internet: Sites for Your Work Day, Sites for You," part of the "Soaring to Excellence" series airs Friday, Jan. 16, 1998 at 10 a.m. Sites include: Carroll College, Helena; Fort Peck Community College, Poplar; Parmly-Billings Library; MSU-College of Tech., Great Falls; UM Mansfield Library, Missoula; Dawson Community College, Glendive.

### Directory Changes

Page 8, Belgrade Community Library's new director is Ilene Casey  
Page 8, Fallon county Library's e-mail: karynb@mtlib.org



## INTERACTIVE MAP WEB SITES

The Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) now has three different interactive maps on their WWW site: Montana Maps Interactive, Groundwater Maps, and a US Geological Survey map sheet identification service.

Interactive maps allow the user to select the information on their map, such as: a map of all the wells in the Helena area or a map of Montana with roads, streams and county seats on it. What if you have a patron who knows the name of a US Geological Survey map in the Harlowton area, but isn't sure of its location? You can find it with the quad locator map.

This new interactive service moves NRIS to being able to provide reference and interactive information services 24 hours a day to anyone in the world with Internet access. This tool is a great service for libraries and schools, come visit our site: <http://nr.is.mt.gov/gis/intermap.html>

### Around the State

A local obscenity law was voted on in ten Montana communities at the November election. The current state law shields public schools, libraries and museums from prosecution; the local laws would remove that protection. The six communities that rejected the law were:

Belt: no 97; yes 90  
 Livingston: no 949; yes 649  
 Polson: no 352, yes 238  
 Neihart: no 18, yes 7  
 Broadview: no 23, yes 12  
 Three Forks: no 218, yes 47

The four communities that passed the law were:

Manhattan: yes 142, no 139  
 Clyde Park: yes 45, no 33  
 Ronan: yes 204, no 112  
 St. Ignatius: yes 122, no 67

Private security guards have been patrolling the **Parmly Billings Library** daily since June 30 on a trial basis. Director Bill Cochran called it a "bittersweet success." Among other things, the guards have helped police apprehend a walk-away psychiatric patient, held a criminal suspect for police, prevented people from bringing prohibited items into the library, and prevented people from sleeping and drinking in the library.

MLA's **Interlibrary Loan Interest** Group

has undertaken the charge of reviewing the "Montana Interlibrary Sharing Protocol." The group hopes to have suggested revisions to the protocol ready for discussion at the Montana Library Association conference in the spring of 1998. Those responsible for interlibrary sharing may want to review the current protocol and send comments to Nansu Haynes, Bitterroot Public Library, 306 State St., Hamilton MT 59840, [nansuhay@montana.com](mailto:nansuhay@montana.com).

The **Choteau City Council** voted unanimously to commit the city to a contract with Teton County to provide a joint city-county library if the proposed ballot measure is adopted. The measure would direct Teton County government to contract with the towns of Choteau, Dutton and Fairfield.

Ilene Casey of Great Falls, Montana joined the staff of the **Belgrade Community Library** on October 20, 1997 as the new library director. Ilene was born in Bozeman and went to school in Manhattan. She attended the University of Montana in Missoula. Ilene has 14 years experience as a school librarian.

**Havre Public Schools** and Havre-Hill County signed an agreement establishing a wireless computerized network. The public library, Lincoln-McKinley School and the High School Library are connected. Other schools will be added.

## Federation Coordinators

Federation Coordinators, Janice Bradley [soon-to-be coordinator of the South Central Federation], Karen Strege, Darlene Staffeldt, and Library Commissioner Dorothy Laird met in Helena recently to discuss the roles of federation headquarters libraries in library development. Emory Robotham was unable to attend.

Assumptions that guided the meeting included:

- Money for activities are decreasing
- Services are needed
- Library Development work is important and all are committed to it happens
- All outcomes of the meeting are in draft form and subject to review by other groups
- There are legal perspectives to these discussions.

The group discussed the traditional roles of federations and considered if federation headquarters currently fulfill these roles.

They agreed that the federation headquarters libraries perform a role in offering formal opportunities for continuing education. The purposes of federation meetings are to decide the distribution of federation funds, engender networking, planning and problem solving, define common missions and esprit d'corps, share resources, and offer continuing education.

The group agreed that the roles of federations have and will change.

Greta Chapman, Jim Heckel and Karen Strege agreed to review services provided by federations and to develop a set of possible options. The coordinators will meet again in early 1998 to discuss these options.

## Metadata Coordination

The new buzz word going around is "metadata". Meta means change and metadata, or "data about data" describes the origins of and tracks the changes to geospatial data.

It is an important concept to librarians, as more libraries have access to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Montana has a GIS in Libraries program, which supplies libraries with GIS software for free if they have the hardware and the support people. The software comes with World and USA datasets. Patrons can quickly compare things like birth rates, death rates, population growth and GNP of other countries to the US with the World dataset. A user is able to get more detailed information with the USA database.

MSL's GIS Program can provide access to even more detailed statewide data, and in some cases, local data. A patron can then answer questions such as, "How has the population of my county changed in the last 10 years? Where do most of the people within my county live? Are there any threatened rare or endangered plants or animals in this area?" There are many other sources, and therefore different questions that may be asked, of local GIS data.

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has developed a Metadata Standard. Metadata which meets this standard should accompany all GIS datasets. Data is virtually useless without the metadata. For example, what does the field "P\_14\_29\_89" mean in the worldwide database? Most people wouldn't have known "the percent of the population which was between the ages of 14 and 29 in 1989" without reading the metadata. Would your decisions be affected if you knew that the population data you were working with was gathered in 1935 v.s. 1995? Did the person who originally gathered your data develop it from a map the scale of the Montana Highway Map? Or was it originally entered from something that was the scale of a local town map in the back of the phone book? Although it would be possible to overlay "State of Montana" data on the "Local Town" data, it would be inappropriate. Something originally drawn at a statewide scale simply won't be accurate when enlarged enough to fit on a town drawing. Librarians who are using GIS have a responsibility to use the data appropriately.

MSL recently hired a Metadata Coordinator [see accompanying article "Spotlight: Kris Larson"]. One function of the Coordinator's job will be to convince and help GIS professionals to document their databases. The job may expand into helping people document databases that aren't yet tied to a GIS. Watch for metadata; it's sure to be a growing field that will effect the way that we share information. Contact Kris Larson, 406-444-5691, kris@nris.mt.gov.

## Notes from MSL

### **ACTIONS OF THE STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION AT THEIR OCTOBER 15TH MEETING:**

**Administrative Rules Revisions** - The Commission gave final approval to changes in Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) 10.101.101 which decreases the size of the Library Services Advisory Council from fourteen to nine members and specifies that the Governor will make appointments to the Council. ARM 10.101.203 has also been changed to delete references to specific months in which the Commission will meet. The revised rule reads, "Except for financial exigencies, the commission shall meet six times during each calendar year, at approximately equal intervals, and at such other times as may be appropriate..." A public hearing was held July 30th on the amendments to both the rules; there were no attendees at the hearing.

**Policy Statement for School Libraries** - The following policy statement regarding the relationship between the State Library and school libraries in Montana was adopted:

**Cooperative efforts between school and public libraries will benefit all Montana citizens. Such partnerships will enhance resource sharing, special programs for children and families, and promote literacy in Montana's communities. Therefore, the State Library will serve school libraries by offering grants for cooperative projects and by encouraging school libraries to join multi type library projects. The State Library will also offer school libraries the resources of its collection to supplement reference work and its consultants to develop multi-type library projects. The State Library will work cooperatively with the Office of Public Instruction to improve school library services and to support the position of School Library Media Coordinator.**

**Change of Headquarters Library for South Central Federation** - The Commission accepted the resignation of Parmly Billings Library as Headquarters of South Central Federation, effective June 30, 1998, and approved the appointment of Lewistown Public Library as Headquarters for the federation. Janice Bradley, Lewistown Public Library Director, said at the meeting that some services provided by the headquarters library will change to include the use of more technologies, including a homepage and possibly a listserv.

**LAW REVISION TASK FORCE MEETING:** The Law Revision Task Force met for the first time October 28th. Facilitator Mary Bushing led the group through a planning session during which they prioritized areas of library law that should be reviewed. The top three issues were Intellectual Freedom and Confidentiality, Library Establishment and Consolidation, and Funding. Committees were assigned projects dealing with Intellectual Freedom to be completed by the next meeting, January 7, 1998.

### Paraprofessionals

Helena area library paraprofessionals met at Carroll College Library on October 24th. An organizational name was voted on: Montana Library Paraprofessionals. Paulette Parpart of Missoula Public Library informed the group that they are approved for workshop and interest group meeting time at the MLA Conference. The group decided to present a guest panel composed of paraprofessionals and MLS-degreed librarians to discuss aspects of career development.

Requests for MLA to grant the Montana Library Paraprofessionals interest group status and the "Library Journal" to recognize and give an award for paraprofessional excellence were passed around at the meeting for signatures.



Kris  
Larson  
and  
Twenty



## Spotlight: Kris Larson

Kris Larson recently accepted the position of Metadata Coordinator in the Natural Resource Information System [NRIS] at MSL. She went to school at University of Montana in Geography with a Cartography emphasis. Kris was an intern with the GIS Program at NRIS in 1989. She then accepted the position of GIS Technician at NRIS on January 1, 1990. She was quickly promoted to GIS Programmer and worked in that capacity until October 24, 1997, when she accepted the Metadata Coordinator position. See the associated article on Metadata.

Kris is a member of the Montana GIS Users' Group, and will host the 7th Annual Public Night this year at the Users' Group Conference in Butte on April 27. Public Night is an opportunity for people to find out what GIS is all about. There will be activity booths and prizes for K-12 kids. If you're interested, Contact Kris at 406-444-5691,

kris@nris.mt.gov.

Kris has been instrumental in starting the GIS in Libraries and K-12 programs. Montana's program is unique in that it is the only one in the nation that provides K-12 libraries with ArcView GIS software for free, through a cooperative program between the library, MSL, and ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute). More than a dozen new libraries have requested the software in 1997 and nine GIS workshops for the teachers and librarians have been put on in the state. If you're not already participating in this program, the new contacts are Pam Smith and Ed Madej.

Kris says outside of work she likes to "telemark ski badly, kayak badly, run badly, make BAd aRt, and occasionally read good novels. I like chocolate and will accept donations from complete strangers." [Editor's note: I've never seen Kris do anything badly, so take her comments with a grain of salt.]

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### Notice:

Montana Talking Books Library will be closed from December 2 through December 12 to install and be trained on their new circulation system. Patrons are asked to anticipate their needs and order extra books for that time period. We apologize for any inconvenience but feel the new circulation system will result in increased work efficiency for the staff and improved service for patrons.